AIRUIKA TSUTSUMI KAKERU
AND HE PROBABLY CAN'T TOLERATE ALCOHOL
HE ALWAYS WEARS AN EARRING IN ONLY ONE EAR,
HE'S ANTI-SOCIAL AND DOESN'T SPEAK MUCH,
BUT HE'S REALLY HAND-SOME,
—THIS IS...

Rain that Heals A Parched Heart— 35 P

THEME KISS

Airuika 愛涙家

ALL I KNOW ABOUT HIM.

Tsutsumi Kakeru
堤翔

POPULAR SERIES OJIKOI IS CURRENTLY BEING PUBLISHED UNDER THE HANA TO YUME COMICS ONLINE LABEL!

...JEEZ,
THIS MAKES HOW MANY TIMES NOW, THAT HE'S SAID THE SAME THING ?
IT'S MY TREAT.
.....
...COME ON,
IT'LL BE FINE, RIGHT? DRINK WITH US!
NO THAT'S...
EHH
?
WELL THEN, AKI-SAN, HOW ABOUT YOU DRINK WITH US IN KOGA-CHAN'S PLACE?
PARDON ME.
あ
!
THIS GIRL CAN'T TOLERATE ALCOHOL, YOU SEE.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN 3 MONTHS SINCE I STARTED WORKING HERE PART-TIME,
IT'S NOTHING
...I'M SORRY.
I STILL CAN'T HANDLE THEM WELL WHEN THEY'RE ACTING LIKE THAT...
I'M ALWAYS BEING SAVED BY AKI-SAN.
...CAN YOU
ALSO NOT TOLERATE ALCOHOL, AKI-SAN?
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
JUST LIKE JUST NOW,
NO MATER WHO IS INVITING YOU TO DRINK WITH THEM, YOU ALWAYS REFUSE...
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'RE THE SAME IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE AS WELL...?
.....

NOTHING.
AH, I THOUGHT SO—
NOT ALCO-HOL,
NOT TEA,
NOT WATER,
I CAN'T DRINK.
ARE YOU OKAY?!
!
IT'S ALMOST THE 2-YEAR-ANNIVERSARY OF HIS GRAND-MOTHER'S DEATH
HE'S LIKE THIS EVERY YEAR.
YEAH...
SORRY
HE WAS A REAL GRANNY'S-BOY, YOU SEE...

AND YET, I WAS ALWAYS MAKING EXCUSES
ABOUT BEING "BUSY AT WORK"...
IN THE END,
...MY GRANNY
WAS SICK FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.
I DIDN'T REALLY GO TO VISIT HER EVEN WHEN SHE WAS ON HER DEATHBED...
WHOA!!?
...GRANNY, I'M SO SORRY~~~~!

HOLD ON,
WHY IS THE SHOP STAFF CRYING TOO?!
'CAU-SE...
HIS GRA-NNY...
ISN'T THAT GETTING A LITTLE TOO EMOTION-ALLY IN-VOLVED?!
I...
I'VE ALWAYS
CRIED EASILY, SINCE LONG AGO
WHY ARE YOU
OH NO!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DISGUSTED WITH ME?!
...AKI-SAN?

……
…EH

Hello, this is Tsutsumi.

Nice to meet you. My name is Tsutsumi.

Congratulations on the comeback of "The Hana to Uume"! So awesome----!

It was really fun writing a story without any high school girls or old men for the first time in a while. I'd be very happy if you enjoyed the story too, even a little!

To my editor, everyone in the editing department, my family, my friends, and you, dear reader: thank you very much!

BESIDES, I KNOW AKI-SAN'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON
YOU JUST STARTLED ME A BIT, THAT'S ALL!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO THAT FAR...
oooI
WHO WOULD INTENTION-ALLY DO UNPLEASANT THINGS TO OTHERS.

CAN'T DRINK ANYTHING BUT TEARS.
WHEN I TOLD YOU EARLIER
.....
HUH?
THAT I CAN'T DRINK ALCOHOL OR WATER OR ANYTHING ELSE....

THAT WAS THE TRUTH.
—NORMALLY, I CAN BEAR IT NO MATTER HOW THIRSTY I AM, BUT
TODAY WHEN YOU STARTED CRYING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME,
WITHOUT THINKING, I
FOR FLUIDS OTHER THAN TEARS,
NO MATER HOW MUCH I DRINK, MY THIRST IS NEVER SATIATED.

I'M REALLY SORRY
FOR DOING SOMETHING SO DISGUST-ING...
EH ..?!
FROM NOW ON I WON'T GET ANY CLOSER TO YOU THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESS-ARY.
WELL, THEN...

IF YOU'D LIKE
NOT COMING NEAR ME?
THAT'S EVEN WORSE
WON'T YOU DRINK SOME MORE OF MY TEARS?
IF—
D—
DID I SEEM LIKE SOME KIND OF PERVERT JUST NOW?
NO...
……
はっ

HONESTLY, I WAS INTERESTED.
I WON'T DENY IT,
ギュッ
...YOU'RE
THIRSTY, AREN'T YOU?
BUT
I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING IF AKI-SAN'S STORY IS TRUE,

JUST HOW DEEP DOES THAT THIRST GO?
UM...
THIS IS AKI-SAN'S APART-MENT!
IT'S PRETTY BIG, EVEN THOUGH HE'S LIVING HERE ALONE...
OH,
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
Quill
THAT'S FINE!
ISN'T THERE A SCENE AT THE END WHERE QUILL HITS HIS HEAD ON SOMETHING?
YEAH.
I CAN CRY FROM WATCHING JUST THAT PART.
HEH

……
ぼそ ぼそ
QUILL !
……
とん
ぼそぼそ
ち
IS IT OKAY?

AAGH
THE NOISE OF MY HEART BEATING IS SO LOUD—
WAA
THIS IS...
.....
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT I MEAN IS...
HAVING IT DONE TO ME A SECOND TIME...

すーーーん…
I'M SORRY, EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED IT...
NO,
THE CRYING WASN'T THE PROB-LEMATIC PART...
ガチャ
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY FOR HAV-ING YOU DO SOME-THING SO STR-ANGE
NO...
UM,
NEXT TIME I'LL BRING THE DVD "STORY OF THE ANT-ARCTIC" WITH ME.
IF IT'S THAT ONE, I CAN CRY FOR 2 HOURS STRAIT!
L—
LET ME TRY AGAIN!

NO WAY,
2 HOURS STRAIT ?
クスクス
……
SO—
PFFT!
AHA HA.
SINCE THEN
WE'VE HELD "SAD MOVIE VIEWING PARTIES"
A SECOND AND A THIRD TIME.
I'D FINALLY GOTTEN TO THE POINT THAT I COULD START CRYING IN UNDER A MINUTE…
HAH——…
……

WHY DON'T YOU
EVER ASK ME ABOUT IT?
HEY, LISTEN
YES?
NO, IT'S JUST—
"GRAVE OF THE FIREFLIES" IS SUCH A CLASSIC.
EH?
WHY I CAN'T DRINK ANYTHING OTHER THAN TEARS,
WHEN IT STARTED,
—WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT...
THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS.
I'M SURE YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT THOSE THINGS,
AH—
.....
AND YET YOU'VE BEEN HELPING ME OUT ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT ASKING, RIGHT?
THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T CARE, BUT...

BE-
SIDES
IN
FACT,
I AM
CURIOUS,
AND
SOMETIMES
I EVEN THINK
"MAN, I REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW!"
BUT
THERE'S
BEEN WATER
STOCKED UP
RECENTLY
IN YOUR
PREVIOUSLY
STARK-BARE
REFRIGER-
ATOR.
I FIGURE THAT,
IF YOU WANTED
TO TALK ABOUT IT,
YOU'D PROBABLY
TELL ME ON
YOUR OWN.
—FOR ME,
THOSE KINDS
OF GESTURES
ARE MORE
IMPORTANT.

YOU DID THIS FOR ME, RIGHT?
BECAUSE...

AKI-SAN?
.....
THE FIRST TIME I EVER DRANK TEARS
WAS WHEN I WAS 7 YEARS OLD
I
LOST BOTH OF MY PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT.
"SORRY."
WE'LL DEFINITELY COME HOME EARLY TO-DAY,
SINCE TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY."
"...AKI,
SORRY.

"WE'LL BE GOING NOW."
...THE NEXT TIME THE DOOR OPENED, IT WASN'T MY PARENTS, BUT THE POLICE AND MY GRAND-FATHER.
"AKI,
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.
BECAUSE GRANDPA IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS
GOING TO BE WITH YOU..."

SEV-
ERAL
YEARS
LATER,
MY
GRAND-
FATHER
FELL
ILL...
BUT,
I STILL
REMEMBER
HOW COM-
FORTING IT
WAS.
...IT
WAS
WARM.
SO
WARM...
AND I
WAS PASSED
AROUND
AMONG MY
RELAT-
IVES.
I FELT LIKE A
CHILD LOST
IN A DEEP
DARKNESS.
.....
—LIKE EVERY-
THING WAS
COMPLETELY
HOPELESS...

SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SURVIVE THANKS TO IV TREAT-MENTS.
NO ONE BELIEVED ME..
IT SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH ME.
"WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPEWING NOW?"
"YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR US..."
AND YET...
"YOU'RE A BURDEN."

I MADE YOU CRY AGAIN
...SORRY,
YOUR YOUNGER SELF.
I FELT THAT I WANTED TO PROTECT
B-
.....
BUT..
AKI-SAN, YOU DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING WRONG, AND YET...

DID YOU KNOW?
TEARS ALSO HAVE A FLAVOR
WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY OR SAD, THEY TASTE WATERY, BUT
WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY OR REGRETFUL, THE TASTE IS A BIT SALTY

ARE YOU ANGRY
ON MY BEHALF?

.....
A
KI
-SA
ギュッ
WHEN I'M WITH YOU,
I GET THIS HAPPY FEELING LIKE I'VE JUST EATEN A BIG MEAL AND AM COMPLETELY FULL.

THESE ARE
NEXT TIME YOU COME OVER, YOU DON'T NEED TO BRING ANY-THING.
LISTEN_
YEAH?
THE REASON HE DOESN'T TALK VERY MUCH
IS PROBABLY BECAUSE IF HE SPOKE A LOT, HE'D GET THIRSTY QUICKER.
HE ALWAYS WEARS AN EARRING IN ONLY ONE EAR,
AND HE CAN'T DRINK ANY-THING OTHER THAN TEARS

おたよりください

The perm I had done 3 months ago is still remaining just a bit. As a result, I always look like I've just rolled out of bed.

あて先
〒101-0063 東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2
白泉社 花とゆめ編集部 堤翔様係

ALL
JUST...
YOU WON'T NEED A DVD THAT MAKES YOU CRY.
WILL YOU STAY BY MY SIDE?
THE THINGS I KNOW ABOUT HIM NOW.

FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO LEARN MORE AND MORE.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM.
...GLADLY.
THE END

SFX and Translator's Notes

PAGE 3
THE CREEP HARASSING KOGA ON THIS PAGE REFERS TO HIMSELF AS "UNCLE."
う—: ER—
わし: RUFFLE
ぶ—: HMPH—

PAGE 5
ガタン!: CRASH
むく: SNIFFLE

PAGE 6
ぎゅっ: CLENCH
うわあああん: WAAAAAAGH!
ぼろ: TEARS UP

PAGE 7
ひっく: HIC

PAGE 8
ちゅっ: KISS
は: GASP

PAGE 9
ぽかん: STUNNED
ザワザワ: CHATTER CHATTER
ぎょっ: FLUSTERED
わ—: WAH—

PAGE 12
ぐっ: CLENCH
ぱっ: STRAITEN

PAGE 13
ぱしっ: GRAB

PAGE 14
はっ: GASP

PAGE 15
ぎゅう: SQUEEZE

PAGE 16
はっ: GASP
ピッ: BEEP

PAGE 17
ぼろっ: TEARS UP
ぼろぼろ: DRIP DRIP
とん: GRIP
ちゅ: KISS

PAGE 19
ガチャ: OPEN
ず—ん: DEPRESSED

PAGE 20
クスクス: CHUCKLE

PAGE 21
ずび: SNIFF

PAGE 22
こくこく: CHUG CHUG

PAGE 23
ぽす: SLUMP

PAGE 27
ふ: HEH

PAGE 32
ぎゅっ: HUG